AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing thin-walled containers from film webs comprising the steps of:

manufacturing a tubular structure from at least one film;

forming at least one fold projecting into the tubular structure, wherein the fold includes an intermediate layer, the intermediate layer preventing ~~being designed in such a way that~~ the film webs ~~are prevented~~ from fusing in the area of the intermediate layer;

ultrasonically joining sections of film webs lying flat and parallel on top of one another in the folded tubular structure to form the containers;

ultrasonicllly cutting the containers by punching out cutting lines in advance and releasing the pre-punched containers from the at least one film web, thereby shaping the containers.

2. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the tubular structure is produced from a film web by folding over the film web in the longitudinal direction of the film web and joining together the adjacent lateral edges of the folded film web.

3. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the tubular structure is manufactured from two film webs lying flat and parallel on top of one another, by joining together the adjacent lateral edges of each of the two film webs.

4. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the tubular structure is manufactured by placing two flat, parallel top-film webs together, one on top of the

other, moving one side-film web in each case to the lateral edges of the flat, parallel top-film webs lying on top of the other, folding in the side-film webs and joining the respective mutually adjacent lateral edges of a side and top-film web.

5. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein two diametrically opposing folds are formed in the tubular structure.

6. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the folds are W-shaped.

7. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 5, wherein ultrasonic welding and ultrasonic cutting are used to shape contours of the container in the area between the two diametrically opposing folds, wherein the area of the folds is designed as the bottom of the container.

8. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein compressed air is blown into the at least one film web while manufacturing the tubular structure.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the intermediate layer is a metal coating joined integrally to the at least one film web.

11. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the intermediate layer is a ~~travelling~~traveling disc rotating in the fold.

12. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the intermediate layer is a metal strip used to form the fold.

13. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the film webs are fused together in the vicinity of their folding edges in the longitudinal direction of the tubular structure in order to form sealing seams.

14. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the folding edges located beside a sealing seam form a loop in cross-section.

15. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 13, wherein sealing seams in the film webs include transverse sealing seams designed in a saw-tooth shape.

16. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the transverse sealing seams form curved lines, and the containers have cutting edges that are straight.

17. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the film web is fed in an oblique direction towards a rotating guide roll and subsequently ultrasonic welding is preformed with an ultrasonic welding device.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the film webs are folded in a frame and the folded film webs are moved on a supporting table relative to an ultrasonic welding device in order to shape the containers.

20. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein at least one film web is pre-punched in order to create a weakened tearing line to open the container.

21. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein at least one film web is profiled in order to form the weakened tearing line to open the container.

22. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in either of Claims 20 or 21, wherein the weakened tearing line is worked in continuously.

23. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in either of Claims 20 or 21, wherein the weakened tearing line is formed by pre-punching or profiling by means of ultrasound.

24. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 20, wherein the tearing line is designed in a curved shape.

25. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 20, wherein in a container manufactured from a multi-layer laminate, an inner film web of the container is formed more weakly in order to form the tearing line.

26. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 20, wherein a film web of the container is weakened to form the tearing line before lamination of the film web.

27. (Currently amended) An apparatus for manufacturing thin-walled containers from film webs according to the method of Claim 1, the apparatus comprising:

advancing means for continuously feeding at least one film web;

folding means for creating a tubular structure from at

least one film web and for forming at least one fold projecting into the tubular structure wherein the fold includes an intermediate layer, the intermediate layer preventing ~~being designed in such a way that~~ the film webs ~~are prevented~~ from fusing in the area of the intermediate layer; ~~and~~

at least one ultrasonic welding device for joining portions of film webs lying flat and parallel on top of one another in the folded tubular structure in order to form the containers;

at least one ultrasonicl cutting device for punching out cutting lines in advance and releasing the pre-punched containers from the at least one film web.

28. (Previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 27, further comprising two advancing means for continuously feeding at least one film web, the advancing means being designed such that the film webs are capable of being guided over one another such that they are flat and parallel, wherein an ultrasonic welding device for joining the longitudinal side edges of the film webs lying on top of one another is disposed in the region of the lateral edges of the at least one film web.

29. (Previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 27, further comprising two advancing means for continuously feeding one top-film web each, the advancing means being designed in such a way that the top-film webs are guided over one another such that they are flat and parallel, and two further advancing means for continuously feeding one side-film web for each top-film web towards the lateral edges of the top-film webs lying flat and parallel, one ultrasonic welding device being disposed for

each to join together the longitudinal lateral edges of the adjacent top and side-film webs in the region of the lateral edges.

30. (Previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in Claim 27, wherein the ultrasonic welding device has a supporting table with ultrasonic vibrations applied to it for the film webs and a tool in contact with the film webs and the supporting table in the region where seams and separation points are formed.

31. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the intermediate layer is part of the at least one film or is a separate device.